

**Jesus' First Sermon in Nazareth (Part 2)  
(4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C)**

**Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19—God Promises to Protect Jeremiah**

1. Foreknowledge: God “knew” Jeremiah and “consecrated” him from the “womb” (1:5)
2. Prophetic Mission:
  - a. Battle: “gird up your loins” (1:17)
  - b. Prophecy: “say to them everything I command you” (1:17)
  - c. Courage: “Do not be dismayed...” (1:17)
  - d. Strength: “They will fight against you, but they will not prevail...” (1:19)

**Psalm 71—God is My Rock of Refuge**

1. Rock and Refuge: “in thee, O LORD, do I take refuge...” (v. 1)
2. Mother’s Womb: “upon thee have I leaned from my birth...” (v. 6)

**1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13—The Greatest of these is Love**

1. Higher Gifts: “faith, hope, and love,” but the greatest is “love” (Greek *agapē*) (13:13)

**Luke 4:21-30—Jesus' First Sermon in Nazareth (Part 2)**

1. People of Nazareth’s Initial Response:
  - a. Positive: “all spoke well of him” (4:22)
  - b. Curiosity: “wondered at the gracious words” (4:22)
  - c. Familiarity: “Is not this Joseph’s son?” (4:22)
2. Jesus’ Response:
  - a. Doctor: “Physician, heal (Greek *therapeuson*) yourself” (4:23)
  - b. Miracles: “Do here in your own country” miracles at “Capernaum” (4:23)
3. Jesus Prophesies His Rejection:
  - a. Proverb: “No prophet is acceptable in his own country” (4:24)
  - b. Widow of Zarephath: Elijah goes only to her (4:25-26; cf. 1 Kings 17:8-16)
  - c. Naaman the Leper: Elisha goes only to him (4:27; cf. 2 King 5:1-14)
4. People of Nazareth’s Final Response:
  - a. Wrath: “all in the synagogue were filled with wrath” (4:28)
  - b. Mob: “they led him to the brow of the hill” to “throw him headlong” (4:29)
  - c. Escape: Jesus “passed through the midst of them” (4:30)

**The Living Tradition**

Ambrose of Milan: Understand that [Jesus] was not forced to suffer the passion of his body. He was not taken by the Jews but given by himself. Indeed, he is taken when he wants to be. He glides away when he wants to. He is hung when he wants to be. He is not held when he does not wish it. Here he goes up to the summit of the hill to be thrown down. But, behold, the minds of the furious men were suddenly changed or confused. He descended through their midst, for the hour of his passion had not yet come. (Ambrose,

*Exposition of the Gospel of Luke*, 4.56; trans. in A. Just, p. 83).

## Questions for Discussion and Reflection (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time, Year B)

1. How the prophetic mission and ministry of Jeremiah point forward to the mission and ministry of Jesus?

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2. Why do the people of Nazareth respond positively to Jesus, and then turn around and become enraged? What exactly is it that he says that makes them so upset?

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3. According to Saint Ambrose, how does Jesus escape from the mob when they lead him up the hill to cast him over the edge?

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## For Further Study

1. Pablo Gadenz. *The Gospel of Luke*. Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018), 97-104.
2. Arthur A. Just, Jr. *Luke*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament III. Downers Grove: IVP, 2003. Pp. 78-83.